

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

June 11, 1997

MINUTES

The Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education met for a special meeting in Senate Room B of the General Assembly Building, Richmond, Virginia on Wednesday, June 11, 1997, with the following members present:

Ms. Michelle Easton, President
Mrs. Lil Tuttle, Vice President
Senator J. Brandon Bell
Mr. Rayford L. Harris, Sr.
Mrs. Kay Coles James

Mr. Robert H. Patterson, Jr.
Senator John W. Russell
Mr. Lee Ware
Mrs. Cheri P. Yecke

Dr. Richard T. La Pointe
Secretary and Superintendent of
Public Instruction.

Ms. Easton, president, presided and called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Senator Russell gave the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition

Ms. Easton recognized Mr. George McGovern, Principal, Landstown Middle School, Virginia Beach City Schools and Mrs. Jane Massey-Wilson, Superintendent of West Point Public Schools.

Action Item

Standards of Accreditation

The following amendments were made to the proposed document since the March 17, 1997 draft.

1. The deadline for requiring all schools to offer the course requirements has been moved back to the fall of 1998.
2. The new SOL test will be given next spring as scheduled but will not be used for graduation purposes until the 9th grade class of 2000-2001, which are today's fifth graders who will be graduating in the class of 2004.
3. Allows more time for elective courses such as Vocational Education and Fine Arts.
4. Localities will be permitted to choose whether to offer Family Life Education.
5. Elementary schools will be permitted to choose whether they want a guidance counselor or a reading specialist, or a combination of the two.
6. No charter schools

Ms. Easton emphasized that the Standards of Accreditation are not tied to state funding of schools. The General Assembly determines the amount of state funding which is based on the Standards of Quality.

Ms. Easton reviewed changes made in the Standards of Accreditation since the March 17 proposal. There was much discussion concerning the requirement that 70 percent of the students in a school would have to pass Standards of Learning tests for schools to be accredited.

A motion was made by Mrs. Tuttle to adopt the Standards of Accreditation and seconded by Mrs. Yecke. The motion carried with a vote of eight ayes and one opposed.

Mr. Harris - Aye
Mrs. Tuttle - Aye
Mr. Ware - Aye
Mrs. Yecke - Aye
Mr. Patterson - No

Mrs. James - Aye
Senator Bell - Aye
Senator Russell - Aye
Ms. Easton - Aye

Mrs. James made a motion to approve the following resolution. The motion was seconded by Mr. Harris and carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC
COMMENT AND DEFERRING ACTION**

RESOLVED that the proposed Standards of Accreditation, as published in the Virginia Register on March 17, 1997 and amended by today=s action of the Board shall be submitted for publication in the next available issue of the Virginia Register, together with a notice providing the public an opportunity for oral and written comments on said proposed Standards of Accreditation as amended, said comment period to close thirty days after such publication, and

RESOLVED also that the Board and the Department of Education shall prepare and send to all school division superintendents the statement required by ' 22.1-17 of the Code of Virginia by not later than June 30, 1997, said statement to address said proposed Standards of Accreditation as amended by today=s action of the Board, and

RESOLVED also that further action on said proposed Standards of Accreditation be deferred and suspended until the first Board meeting held after September 1, 1997.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Easton adjourned the meeting of the Virginia Board of Education and the Board of Vocational Education at 5:30 p.m.

President